

Judicial Committee on Information Technology
December 6, 2024 – Travis County Family and Civil Courthouse

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Justice Simmons called the meeting to order at 10:00AM.

Voting Members Present

Honorable Rebecca Simmons

Bob Wessels

Honorable Lawrence Doss

David Escamilla (virtual)

Tracy Hopper

Dean Stanzione (virtual)

John Warren (virtual)

Ed Wells (virtual)

Non-Voting Members Present

Honorable Jeff Boyd (virtual)

Michael Cruz (virtual)

Michael Cuccaro (virtual)

Doug Gowin (virtual)

Jessica Griffith (virtual)

Honorable Blake Hawthorne

Cynthia Orr

Honorable Velva Price

Russ Ridgway (virtual)

Sian Schilhab (virtual)

Honorable David Stith (virtual)

Aaron Varner

Honorable Beverly Walker (virtual)

Jennifer Williams (virtual)

OCA Staff Present

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services

Others Present

Jesus Acevedo, Fort Bend County
Evan Acosta, Tyler Technologies
Blanca Alamia, Fort Bend County
Alicia Betancourt, Fort Bend County
Epi Cantu, Fort Bend County
Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies
Jamie Gillespie, Tyler Technologies
Sara Khan, Fort Bend County
Diana Parsons, Travis County
Chris Ricci, Tyler Technologies
Honorable Laura Richard, Fort Bend County
Steve Schenk, Prodoc/Thompson Reuters

II. Meeting Minutes from the October 2024 meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the October 2024 meeting by **John Warren**, seconded by **Bob Wessels**. No opposition. **Motion carried.**

III. Subcommittee Updates

A. Standards Subcommittee

1. Version 9 of the Technology Standards

Bob Wessels provided the committee with a summary of the work completed by the subcommittee since the last meeting. He then stepped through the changes to the Technology Standards for version 9 to the committee.

The committee discussed each change and adjusted language as needed.

Motion to strike the last sentence on page 27 and replace it with “The Clerk Administrator may designate additional staff to this role as needed.” by **Tracy Hopper** seconded by **Bob Wessels**. No opposition. **Motion carried.**

Motion to synchronize the case categories and case types presented in Section 5.4 to match the case categories and types in Section 4 by **Tracy Hopper** seconded by **Bob Wessels**. No opposition. **Motion carried.**

Motion to strike paragraph 2 of Section 5.4 (starting with “Note....” and replace it with “If a clerk uses internal case types in the local case management system that do not match exactly the case types listed, the internal case types must be mapped to the case types listed in sections 5.4.1 through 5.4.6.” by **Bob Wessels**, seconded by **Blake Hawthorne**. No opposition. **Motion carried.**

Motion to change the table headers and their definitions from “Index Info?” and “Docs Show?” to “Index Info” and “Docs” respectively, by **Bob Wessels**, seconded by **Tracy Hopper**. No opposition. **Motion carried.**

The committee discussed the need of a definition of “ReStyle” in the standards and tasked the Standards subcommittee to define it at their next subcommittee meeting. Jamie Gillespie with Tyler Technologies also commented that the subcommittee should document the data fields that are included in the Index Info as well.

Motion to delete the text of Section 5.4.5 and replace it with the following:

“For documents to be visible to Role 5 (Registered Users), the document must contain a document type of one the following:

- Information
- Indictment
- Sentence
- Judgment
- Order of Dismissal

If a clerk uses internal document types in the local case management system that do not match exactly the document types listed, the internal case types must be mapped to the document types listed above.” by **Blake Hawthorne**, seconded by **Tracy Hopper**. No opposition. **Motion carried.**

Motion to adopt version 9 of Technology Standards as amended by **Bob Wessels**, seconded by **Tracy Hopper**. No opposition. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Kennedy committed to sending the adopted Technology Standards as amended to the Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals for their adoption.

2. Visiting judge access to re:SearchTX

Mr. Wessels noted the absence of Judge Hinde and requested that this item be tabled to the next meeting.

B. eFiling/Document Access Subcommittee

Tracy Hopper gave an update to the committee on the recommendations and progress on expanding free case alerts to case notices as contemplated by the rules. This included subcommittee discussions on the difference between “Case Alerts” and “Case Notices”, opt-out functionality, communication/education to the legal community, requirements around notices and sealed cases, and future discussion items for the subcommittee.

IV. Program Updates

A. eFileTexas/re:SearchTX/Guide and File

Evan Acosta with Tyler Technologies provided the committee an update on eFileTexas, re:SearchTX and Guide and File. He noted that the number of users on eFiling has exceeded 900,000 and continues to climb. He noted that there are now 234 JP courts that allow eFiling across 56 counties.

Mr. Acosta noted that the statewide return for correction rate is approximately a point below the national average. He dived into the detailed data for the committee to show where the most returns for correction are occurring, broken down by case type and filer type (self-represented litigants vs. attorneys).

Mr. Acosta then updated the committee on Guide and File usage by self-represented litigants, including the return for correction rates of documents efiled through the guide and file platform. Justice Doss reported that he had looked at the detailed data and presented his findings. Justice Doss indicated more work needs to be done to see why certain counties return documents generated from the platform at a much higher rate than those not generated by the platform.

Finally, Mr. Acosta reported on the progress of the Supreme Court mandate that all courts integrate with re:SearchTX for civil cases and documents. He reported that all but McLennan County met their extended date of 12/1/2024. He indicated that after the holidays, Tyler Tech will be starting meetings with the clerks and vendors in the next phase coming due on 3/1/2025.

V. Adjourn

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:01PM. Next meeting date of JCIT is 2/21/2025 and then 5/16/2025.